

# LBI Grade School Alumni Open Time Capsule From 1972

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By Juliet Kaszas-Hoch



(Supplied Photos)

Fifty years ago, a class of students at the Long Beach Island Grade School in Ship Bottom filled a wooden box with various objects, favorite possessions, photographs and hand-written musings to characterize their lives as schoolchildren in the 1970s. The box – this time capsule – was placed inside a wall, with a framed note hanging in front: “Behind this wall a box was placed by Mr. Cafarelli’s fourth grade social studies classes on April 28, 1972. The box contains artifacts of the class and is to be opened on the first school day of May 2022. In case this school is destroyed or abandoned, please remove this box to the nearest school. If schools across the nation are discontinued before 2022, the last class to use this school should open the box on the last official day of school.”

Five decades (and a few months) later, some of the children – now adults, of course – returned to the school.

On Friday, Oct. 14, Burt Boyle, Sharon Twaddell, Wayne Henderson, Tom Logue, Brenda Snow, James Guld, Linda Tilton, Judy Seddon and Tim Brindley (later joined by David Mayo and Sam Wieczorek as well) were greeted in the LBI School hallways by Superintendent Peter Kopack and other members of the district staff. The group filtered into what is currently a third-grade classroom and, sure enough, on a back wall was the framed note.

“I remember what I put in there,” Boyle noted. “A Hot Wheels car. And I took all the Polaroid pictures, so I’m not in any of them.” He also made the wooden box itself, along with Mr. Gimble, the janitor.

As Henderson and Logue tried out the desks – vacated by the students, who made their way to the auditorium/gymnasium/cafeteria for the grand unveiling of the time capsule – janitorial staff opened the door in the wall and removed the box. There were oohs and ahhs.

The adults then also decamped to the gym, where the entire grade school was now assembled. Henderson and Snow, primarily, took turns on the microphone as they sorted through the time capsule.

Among the items were: a math book titled “Elementary School Mathematics”; a magnifying glass; a hairbrush; tape; a stapler; paint and paintbrush; a pencil; a large pink eraser; scissors; a crayon; a can opener; a red Barbie coin purse; a road map for Nevada; pictures of a house and a car; a *TV Time* television guide; issues of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *National Geographic*, *Sports Illustrated* and *Life*; and a radiosonde, which is a telemetry instrument used by the U.S. military to collect weather data.



Henderson, Logue and Guld check out the radiosonde

A photo album was titled “How Our Class Looked in 1972,” with pictures from, for example, phys ed, depicting ping pong and pushups. Also included were a number of missives about the various classes. “In music,” one student wrote, “we dance and sing. Sometimes we get to pick out any songs we want to sing. We have fun doing the Alleycat and the Bunny Hop. Mrs. Bonyadi teaches us music. We do a lot of fun things in Music.”

As the group studied the time capsule's treasures, there were reminscences, there were jokes, there was a mention of Logue's National Association of Letter Carriers' National Hero of the Year Award. There was mention of cooties. There was talk of classmate Eric Miller, and his brother Herbie.



Bryce MacLennan, Max Martinez and Vivienne Hoch look at an old math book.

In one of the "Typical Day in the Life of a Boy" pennings, Miller wrote that a boy wakes up and "feels like hibernating, but there is work to be done." The boy might eat some toast, get dressed, and then fortunately makes it to school with time to "fool around."

He states, also, "Science is cool because you can do experiments and that's fun. ... And then probably the best thing to happen every day: Going home."

Henderson wisecracked to the students, "Let's hear it for going home!"

Miller also wrote about the boy playing outside after school, then playing inside, and then, "if (the boy) has a little brother he might start a fight." Then he has to take a bath, as per Mom.

One of the girls, meanwhile, said the "typical day" begins with the alarm clock going off, and Mom asking, "Are you up yet?!"

"I go downstairs looking like a grumpy kid," wrote the girl.

The rest of the girl's day involves some combination of reading, spelling, English, science, social studies, math and other subjects, as well as lunchtime (by which she is always "starving") and then it's time to go home, play, do homework, take a bath and go to bed. Another school day – or, even better, the weekend! – awaits.

After the time capsule items were all laid out on the table near the stage, the grade school students lined up to walk by and take a look. Some paged through the math book. Many looked perplexed by the radiosonde. Where were the cellphones?

Eventually the students headed back to their classrooms. The group of former fourth-graders stayed a bit longer.

The over-riding sentiment was this: It was great to see what was in the time capsule, and even better to see old friends.

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50 YEARS LATER: Burt Boyle, Sharon Twaddell, Wayne Henderson, Tom Logue, Brenda Snow, James Guld, Linda Tilton, Judy Seddon and Tim Brindley were fourth-graders when they filled the time capsule.